30 April 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1907, "Resolve, To Continue a Review of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Plan."

This resolve directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, the Administration, and other stakeholders to continue working to evaluate and design new retirement plan options for all state employees and teachers.

The working group has completed its mission by drafting a report that assesses possible retirement plan options. Maine does not need yet another task force to study a problem that has already been addressed and certainly does not rise to the level of an emergency measure.

Furthermore, this resolve is yet another unfunded mandate. It not only burdens MPERS and the Administration with continuing an unnecessary study, but also requires both organizations to procure the funding necessary to pay for it.

I agree that state pension reform is needed. I have worked throughout my administration to shore up our state’s pension system and more remains to be done. However, it is ultimately the Legislature and the Governor that will decide what shape such reform should take. We do not need another report to address an issue we know all too well.

For these reasons, I am returning LD 1907 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor